

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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SUB B3 > 1. A network-based server device for managing product inventory information on an individual-store basis, the server device comprising:

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a receiving unit for receiving requests for product information from a client device; and
a processing unit for transmitting, to the client device in response to the request for product information, product inventory information on an individual-store basis for stores selected on the basis of client or customer identification information.

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2. The server device as claimed in claim 1, further including access information for accessing individual stores in the transmitted inventory information.

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3. The server device as claimed in claim 1, further including hours of operation information for individual stores in the inventory information transmitted.

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4. The server device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the processing unit adds features to the
inventory information transmitted that make it
possible to identify inventory information of stores
5 having an address near an address designated by the
customer.

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5. The server device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the processing unit sorts the transmitted
inventory information by store in order of proximity
to the address designated by the customer.

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6. The server device as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the processing unit adds identifying marks
to the transmitted inventory information so as to
identify stores nearest the address designated by
the customer.

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7. The server device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the server device adds to the store-based
inventory information a screen that allows the
customer to place a hold on an item.

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8. A network-based server device adapted
to employing a shopping cart model, the server

device comprising:

a management unit that manages information on a plurality of items put into a shopping cart by the customer; and

- 5 a processing unit that transmits to a client device a menu that allows the customer to select from among a plurality of methods of taking delivery and a plurality of methods of payment for each item in the shopping cart in response to a
10 request from the client device to display contents of the shopping cart.

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9. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for a server device that manages product inventory information on an individual-store basis, the program comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving requests for product information from a client device; and

a processing unit for transmitting, to the client device in response to the request for product information, product inventory information on an individual-store basis for stores selected from a database on the basis of client or customer identification information.

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10. A computer-readable recording medium containing a program for a network-based server device adapted to employing a shopping cart model, 35 the recording medium comprising:

a management unit that manages information on a plurality of items put into a shopping cart by

the customer; and

a processing unit that transmits to a client device a menu that allows the customer to select from among a plurality of methods of taking delivery and a plurality of methods of payment for each item in the shopping cart in response to a request from the client device to display contents of the shopping cart.

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11. A network-based client device that searches product information from a server device, the client device comprising:

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a requesting unit that requests product inventory information of the server device; a receiving unit that receives the product inventory information on an individual-store basis from the server device; and

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a display unit for displaying the inventory information on an individual-store basis for stores selected on the basis of client or customer identification information.

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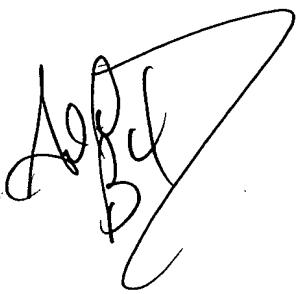
12. A network-based client device adapted to employing a shopping cart model, the client device comprising:

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a requesting unit that requests the contents of the customer's shopping cart be displayed; and

a processing unit that receives and displays a menu that allows the customer to select from among a plurality of methods of taking delivery

and a plurality of methods of payment for each item in the shopping cart in response to a request to display contents of the shopping cart.

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized letters, possibly "JRC", enclosed within a large, roughly triangular outline.